U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Administration
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 611
San Francisco 3, California

June 4, 1946

San Francisco Wholesale Markets
USDA FOOD BULLETIN
From Federal-State Market News Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - We can't say that the butter supply is any better! In fact, butter talk this past week has helped to retard distribution of what supplies are available. On May 29, the Office of Economic Stabilization announced that effective June 1 butter prices would increase about 11¢ at the retail level. As a result, confused dealers and shippers have been holding back their supplies. Distribution is at an all-time low.

Eggs - Plentiful egg supplies find demand better for the top quality large eggs. Production is declining from week to week, but so far, supplies have held well over those of a year ago, while large volumes are being placed in storage. We expect prices to remain unchanged at 40½¢ per doze. for Grade A Large, 37½¢ for Mediums, and 33½¢ for Smalls until Thursday, June 6, when new ceiling prices are expected to be set under O.P.A. regulations at 1 to 2 cents higher.

Poultry - Live poultry supplies have been liberal this past week, with Leghorn fowl making up the bulk of receipts. On June 1, the ceiling price was lowered 1/2-cent per pound on live broilers, fryers, and roasters, and 1.2¢ per pound on Leghorn fowl, which are now selling several cents below the ceiling. Squab production has been heavy with supplies exceeding demand at unchanged prices. Even though dressed poultry has been in good demand, Leghorn fowl and squabs have been moving into storage. Young chickens are still scarce with distributors unable to fill all orders.

MEAT

Beef - There has been no improvement in the beef supply available for distribution. Some plants have been forced to close because their May slaughter quota was exhausted. The general quality of beef this past week ranged from Utility to Good grade.

Lamb - Fresh lamb and mutton supplies have been fairly ample. There has been an increase in the trucked-in supply from the North Coast territory. Demand has been strong because of the scarcity of other kinds of meats.

Pork - The supply of fresh pork is very short. The railroad strike has had a great deal of effect upon this class of meat because the bulk of our pork supply is shipped in from Mid-Western areas. In some cases, workers preparing sliced bacon have had to be dismissed early because of the delay in the arrival of the Mid-Western product for slicing. Quality has ranged toward the light weights, with much No. 2 grade in evidence. Orders for pork cuts have been filled on an exceedingly limited basis.

(More)

FRUITS

Fruits are appearing on the market in greater abundance and in more varieties each week. This week we find cherries and grapefruit topping the list of good buys.

Cherries are more plentiful and considerably cheaper than last week. Bings are appearing on the market and are the best for eating.

Although a rise in ceiling price makes grapefruit higher than last week, it is still a good buy, especially the Coachella Valley fruit.

Lemons and oranges are about the same as for last week, except they, too, have had a rise in ceiling price. Limes are scarce and high.

Apricots are becoming more plentiful and can now be classed a fair buy.

Avocados remain a fair buy.

Among the berries, youngberries are the best buy. Strawberries are still high. Raspberries are beginning to come in.

Melons are in better supply with cantaloups quite plentiful and dropping in price, although they are higher than last week because of the new ceiling price. Honeyballs are slightly lower, but there are not many on the market. This morning saw the first arrivals of Honeydews from Imperial Valley. Imperial Valley Klondike watermelons are still selling at 7½ to 8¢ per pound, but they're a good eating melon.

The Mayflower and Florence peaches coming to market from Sacramento and Tulare are not quite up to standard on quality and are high priced.

There are some Beauty and Apex plums, but they are a little green yet and high.

VEGETABLES

New Potatoes and soft squash are the two best vegetable buys. Squash is especially plentiful.

In the fair buy class, we find asparagus with supplies a little bit lighter, cabbage and cauliflower, with the quality on cauliflower improving eggplant in fairly heavy supply and lower priced, and peas.

Ice packed carrots are about the same as for last week, with supplies beginning to come in from Salinas.

Corn has dropped some from last week and the supply is now fairly heavy.

Celery, in lighter supply, has jumped up in price to $1.00 to $1.50 higher per crate.

Lettuce has increased in price, but the quality has improved.

Good quality tomatoes are still selling at ceiling, although the supply is now fairly heavy.
Cucumbers are in better supply with the price lower, but they're still fairly expensive
Artichokes are continually becoming less plentiful.
Peppers are still out of sight in price with no increase in supply.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

June 11, 1946

San Francisco Wholesale Markets
USDA FOOD BULLETIN
From Federal-State Market News Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Wholesale butter trading in San Francisco has been practically at a standstill. Confusion over the anticipated price rise still reigns. As a result, dealers and creameries have been holding their stocks. Distribution is at an all time low.

Eggs - Comparatively heavy egg receipts at the beginning of last week were absorbed. Top quality large and medium eggs were in best demand, while smalls and lower quality grades were in fair demand. On Thursday, June 6, new ceiling prices were set at 2¢ higher on Grade A Large (42½¢ per dozen) and Grade A Medium (39½¢) eggs; smalls remained at 33½¢. Short supplies of meat in retail outlets have stimulated demand for eggs. This, along with the normal seasonal decline in production, keeps eggs in a firm position, despite large storage supplies.

Poultry - Relatively heavy live poultry receipts over the end of the week were readily used, as demand for dressed poultry continued heavy. There was no accumulation of stocks. This last week saw a few broilers available, but fryers and roasters have practically disappeared from regular channels. Distributors have been using cold-storage holdings freely to fill orders for retail trade. Price changes last week included a drop on Monday of ½-cent per pound (live-weight) on young chickens and 1.2¢ per pound on fowl. On Thursday, live Leghorn fowl of 3½ pounds and up brought 23 to 24¢ per pound, an increase of one cent.

MEAT

Beef - Last week saw beef slaughter about the lowest in several years. The supply available for domestic delivery was barely 30% of normal requirements. Compliance with quotas, higher replacement costs for live cattle, meeting Federal "set-aside" requirements -- all have their influence upon supply. Quality ranged from Commercial to Good.

Lamb - Fairly ample supplies of lamb last week were in strong demand. The volume of sheep and lambs received from the lower North Coast territory was about double that of the previous week. All customers were given a partial filling of orders.

Pork - Offerings of pork carcasses and cuts last week were exceedingly limited. Orders were filled on a partial basis.

M O R E

FRUITS

Almost all fruits are becoming more plentiful and lower priced. Last week saw the first Alameda county currants on the market and yesterday the first red loganberries of the season made their appearance.

Raspberries are a fair buy at lower prices. Strawberries are about the same as for last week and youngberries are a good buy.

Most of the apricots to be found now are of the Royal variety and they are cheaper.

Cherries are a good buy with Santa Clara county Black Tartarians selling at 12 to 16¢ per pound and Bings at 22 to 25¢.

Melons are becoming quite plentiful, especially cantaloups which have dropped considerably in price. Imperial Valley Klondike watermellons are now selling at 5 to 6½¢ per pound.

Avocados are higher than last week.

Grapefruit is still a good buy. Arizona fruit is slightly higher than last week. No change in lemons. Southern California and Mexican limes are slightly lower. Moderate supplies of oranges are selling at ceiling, except for some of the smaller sizes.

Last Thursday a fresh shipment of Hawaiian pineapple came in, but they are high.

Bananas and apples are scarce.

VEGETABLES

The two best buys among the vegetables are new potatoes and soft squash.

Artichokes, a little lower in price, cabbage, onions, and corn, which is now in fairly heavy supply and on a definite price decline, are all fair buys.

Celery has dropped in price the last couple of days.

Cucumbers are now in fairly heavy supply and pretty cheap.

Eggplant is now in abundance and cheap.

With the exception of the Mendocino county peas, the quality on peas is not too good.

Good quality lettuce is selling at ceiling and spinach is becoming less plentiful.

Good quality tomatoes are still selling at ceiling, but indications are that they will drop in price before the end of this week. Most of the supply is coming in from Tulare county now.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

June 18, 1946

San Francisco Wholesale Markets
USDA FOOD BULLETIN
From Federal-State Market News Service
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Available butter supplies have been practically nil. Distribution has been at a new low. Shippers and dealers held their supplies in anticipation of the 10-cent price rise, which finally became effective yesterday, Monday, June 17. However, at San Francisco opinion was that the higher price basis would result in only small increased supplies because prices of other dairy products are still more attractive to sweet cream producers.

Eggs - Supplies of eggs were liberal in retail outlets over the end of the week. This resulted from a decline in movement of eggs into storage. Large and Medium sized eggs continue in good demand, while small and lower quality eggs are in limited demand. On Thursday, June 13, prices advanced 1¢ on Grade A Large (43½¢ per dozen) and Grade A Medium eggs (40½¢). Small eggs remained unchanged in price.

Poultry - Young chickens continue scarce. Country paying prices out of line with present ceilings have resulted in a good portion of the supplies by-passing regular channels. Leghorn fowl receipts fell off toward the end of last week. Demand has increased and f.o.b. liveweight paying prices have advanced to 25 to 26 cents per pound. Dressed poultry has been in strong demand with storage stocks being used freely to supplement the fresh dressed supply.

MEAT

Beef - The visible supply of beef -- that is, what was visible last week -- ranged in quality from Commercial to Good with very little Choice grade. But it was estimated that the supply was about 70 percent short of filling the urgent demand. Two factors involved were the effort to provide beef to fill neglected set-aside requirements and the additional 15 percent quota reduction.

Lamb - Supplies of lamb were fair everywhere. The bulk of the supply moved in whole carcasses, compared to only cuts of other meat being distributed. There was more lamb available than any other kind of meat, but demand was broad and the supply was readily absorbed.

Pork - The over-all picture on pork showed little offered. Pork carcasses and all pork cuts were in limited supply. Demand continued strong.

(MORE)

FRUITS

Fresh fruits are daily becoming more abundant and more attractively priced. There are a number of good fruit buys now.

To start off the list, we have apricots in heavier supply and lower priced, better quality Alexander and Florence peaches, and plums to include Sacramento Valley Beautys and Santa Rosas.

Cherries are a good buy, and nectarines are in good supply now.

Loganberries and youngberries are fair buys, but strawberries, raspberries, and boysenberries are rather high priced.

Melons are becoming more plentiful with the first Cranshaw melons now on the market. They are lower priced, too, than the Honeydews, which are lower than a week ago. Cantaloups have been in lighter supply the last few days and are higher priced. Watermelons are slightly lower at 4½ to 5 cents per pound for Imperial Klondikes.

Black Mission figs are coming in from Tulare County and Fresno and are moderately priced.

Alameda currants continue high and Fuerte avocados are higher than last week.

The citrus fruits are no more than fair buys now. Limes are scarce and less desirable in quality, oranges are selling at ceiling, except for some small sized ones, lemons are about unchanged, and grapefruit is selling mostly at ceiling.

Pineapples and bananas continue scarce and high.

A few apples have come in from Sonoma county and are selling for about 10 cents a pound.

VEGETABLES

New potatoes, dry onions and Tulare county tomatoes are the good buys among the vegetables.

But we have quite a few fair buys to include artichokes, slightly lower priced, cabbage, Tulare county and San Joaquin Valley corn, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, slightly higher priced, soft squash, up in price, too.

Bell peppers have come down a little in price, but are still high.

Eggplant and spinach are both scarce items.

Celery is still pretty high and good quality snap beans are still selling at ceiling.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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821 Market Street, Room 609
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June 25, 1946

San Francisco Wholesale Markets
USDA FOOD BULLETIN
From Federal-State Market News Service
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture

DAIRY AND POULTRY

Butter - Supplies are still exceedingly short of demand. As yet, the 10-cent price increase has had little effect, although it has freed some stocks which were held off the market. Movement of butter to wholesale markets has been slowed down pending the decision on extension of price ceilings. San Francisco retail butter sales for the week ending June 15 (before price increase) were 27½ percent below the previous week and 53½ percent less than a year ago.

Eggs - Production continues to decline, but receipts are still larger than a year ago. In face of the meat shortage, there has been a strong demand for top quality eggs. The volume of ratail sales last week were considerably above those of last year at this time. Lower quality eggs have been in limited demand. Prices on all grades are unchanged.

Poultry - Live poultry receipts over the end of the week were light, except for Leghorn fowl, which arrived in moderate volume. During the past week, Leghorn fowl receipts fell off sharply on Wednesday of last week, small sizes advanced in price at 26 to 28 cents per pound live weight, and 36 to 36¼ cents per pound dressed weight, the same price as for larger sizes. With meat supplies short, demand for all classes of poultry has been heavy. Storage stocks have been used to supplement the fresh dressed supply.

MEAT

Beef - The beef supply picture has had no brighter aspects this past week. Any kind of beef was barely 30 percent of market requirements. Most wholesalers were engaged in catching up on "set-aside" requirements and meeting the 15% quota reduction.

Lamb - In contrast to only cuts and pieces of other meats being available, there was a good supply of lamb and mutton last week. Sheep receipts reached their highest peak so far this year, with fully 90 percent of the supply coming from North Coast counties. All grades were in broad demand.

Pork - With the exception of sliced bacon, which was in fair offering everywhere, pork supplies were far short of demand. Despite summer temperatures, demand was good for any kind of pork cuts.

(MORE)

FRUITS

With more varieties appearing on the market each week, fruit supplies are becoming more plentiful and of better quality as the season advances. Prices have been changing accordingly.

Apples are beginning to appear on the market again with White Astrachan's at 10 cents per pound and the Yellow Transparent variety a little lower.

Apricots, coming in from orchards, are of better quality and slightly higher priced.

Youngberries, boysenberries and red loganberries are all in moderate supply at moderate prices. Strawberries are now in between season and are lighter in supply at prices about unchanged from last week. Raspberries, too, are in light supply.

Alameda county currants are in light supply and fairly high priced.

Melons are more abundant. Cantaloups are now coming in from Arizona and from the Delano district of California to result in some excellent quality melons on the market. The Imperial Valley cantaloups are 50 to 75¢ lower. Fair quality Honeydews are slightly lower priced. The first Persian melons have appeared on the market and are of good quality at fairly high prices. Watermelons are in moderate to fairly heavy supply at considerably lower prices.

Cherry supplies are lighter with Santa Clara county Bings making up the bulk of receipts at 18 to 22 cents per pound. Royal Anns are about the same price. Some Tartarians and Lamberts are available.

Figs are in moderate to heavy supply with some Kadota's now available along with the Black Missions at moderate prices.

The first Thompson Seedless grapes from Coachella Valley are selling at 25 cents per pound.

Citrus fruits are about unchanged with moderate supplies of grapefruit, oranges, and lemons, and scarce supplies of limes.

Pineapples and bananas continue scarce.

VEGETABLES

Liberal supplies of tomatoes, dry onions and soft squash, together with slightly higher priced new potatoes are the best vegetable buys.

Cabbage, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, peas, and spinach are all fair buys.

Both lower priced this week are snap beans and peppers.

Eggplant and artichokes are fairly scarce items now.

The first dill of the season has arrived on the market.